



Adult Education in Santa Cruz County

Fiscal Year 2002

Adult Education is the delivery of literacy services to people 16 years of age and older who are not enrolled in a K-12 school. It includes:

- **Adult Basic Education:** instruction in reading, writing, and math to the 8th grade
- **Adult Secondary Education:** instruction in reading, writing, math, science and social studies; may lead to the attainment of an alternative high school diploma
- **English for Speakers of Other Languages**
- **Citizenship Test Preparation**

The Need for Adult Education In Santa Cruz County

In Santa Cruz County, **11,252*** out-of-school adults do not have a high school diploma or GED; **5894*** adults cannot communicate effectively in the English language.

*Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000; Federal Adult Literacy Estimates, 1996

In Arizona, **only providers who meet rigorous standards and produce positive student outcomes are funded.** Two certified programs provide adult education throughout Santa Cruz County:

Literacy Volunteers of Santa Cruz County
Nogales Unified School District

Adult Education dollars allocated by the Arizona Department of Education to Santa Cruz County in FY2002:

Federal dollars:	\$119,000
State dollars:	\$119,000

Santa Cruz County Adult Education Data for Fiscal Year 2002

- 690 adults enrolled in Adult Education classes
- 117,666 instructional hours were provided in Adult Education classes
- \$2.02 was the total cost per instructional hour for Adult Education
- \$344.93 was the total annual cost per Adult Education student (compared to over \$5,000 per K – 12 student)
- 426 of 663 students (64%) improved more than two grade levels
- 47 of 48 students (98%) who sought a GED obtained their high school equivalency diploma
- 52 of 113 students (40%) who sought a job found employment
- 61 of 84 students (73%) who sought to retain their job or improve their employment were successful
- 7 of 10 students (100%) who wanted to enter post-secondary education or training went on to further education

Family Literacy in Santa Cruz County

Fiscal Year 2002

Arizona Family Literacy provides comprehensive literacy programs to families who have Santa Cruz County's lowest incomes (**90% have incomes under \$25,000**), lowest levels of adult literacy, and who have one or more preschool-aged children. Arizona Family Literacy programs integrate literacy instruction into six service components:

- **Early Childhood Education**
- **Adult Basic Education**
- **Parent Involvement Education**
- **Parent-child Literacy Activities**
- **Community Service/Volunteering**
- **Home-based Instruction**

Family Literacy Services must be of **sufficient intensity and duration** to make sustainable changes in the family including: **preparing the child to enter kindergarten ready to learn**, and **supporting the parents in their role as their child's first and most influential teacher**.

During the 2001-2002 program year, **71% of the children made significant language gains while 60% of the five year olds showed "readiness for kindergarten"**. Because of the intensity of the programming, **76% of Family Literacy parents improved more than two grade levels**.

Nogales Even Start Family Literacy

Fiscal Year 2002

- **Leveraging state family literacy funds with federal Even Start dollars enabled 36 families to be served by Nogales Even Start Family Literacy in Santa Cruz County**
- **Adult parents studied English or worked toward their GED Diploma while their children attended the program's licensed infant/toddler childcare facility or preschool program**
- **Parents contributed 1,456 community service hours, which equals \$7,498 of in-kind benefits to the community (based on**
- **Teen parents worked toward high school diplomas while their children attended the program's licensed infant/toddler childcare facility**

GED Testing in Santa Cruz County

Fiscal Year 2002

What is the GED and why is it important to our community?

The General Educational Development (GED) Test is a five-part, seven-hour exam in reading, writing, science, social studies, and mathematics. Across the nation, one-third of graduating seniors receiving traditional diplomas cannot pass the GED. Research has shown that compared to students with no diploma, students with a GED experience significant improvement in income level and are more likely to become involved in the educational experience of their children.

More than 15,000 students in Arizona take the GED Test annually. There is no Federal or State allocation to fund the processing of GED diplomas or transcripts. The cost of these vital unfunded mandates is taken from the state's adult education allocation.

163 High School Equivalency Diplomas were issued in Santa Cruz County